

**BEFORE THE
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554**

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JUL 22 1996

In the Matter of:)

Grandfathered Short-Spaced)
FM Stations)

MM Docket No. 96-120
RM-7651

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

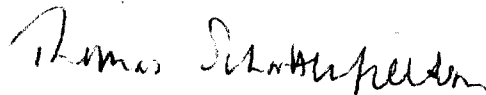
To: The Commission

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COMMENTS OF WPNT, INC.

WPNT, Inc. ("WPNT"), licensee of Station KXOK-FM, Florissant, Missouri, hereby submits its Comments in response to the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rule Making in the above-referenced proceeding. WPNT's Comments are set forth in the attached statement^{*/} prepared by Ralph Brancato, WPNT's Director of Engineering.

Respectively submitted,



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July 22, 1996

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^{*/} Attached is a facsimile of the statement prepared by Mr. Brancato. The original executed copy of his statement will be submitted to the Commission as soon as it is received by counsel.

**Formal Comments of WPNT, Inc.
Concerning Notice of Proposed Rule Making
in MM Docket No. 96-120, RM-7651
Grandfathered Short-Spaced FM Stations**

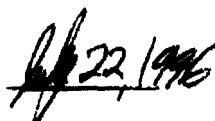
The Commission's NPRM, regarding grandfathered short-spaced FM stations, will allow those stations to be able to relocate transmitter sites. This could allow a station, to be able to move closer to the market it serves and allow reliable coverage to the serve the public interest. The F.C.C. is proposing, in part, the "use of predicted interference area analysis based on field strength protection ratios, instead of the current ambiguous limitation based on the relative locations of the 1 mV/m (60 dBu) service contour of the short-spaced stations..."

The current grandfathered stations are exempt from the rules governing all other FM stations, whose transmitter sites must remain so many miles away from adjacent and I.F. short-spaced stations. In order to serve the public interest, convenience and necessity, these stations would be allowed to further reduce the mileage separations, and be able to improve their facilities.

The fact that this NPRM is before the Commission, and proposed by the Commission, demonstrates that the current mileage separations are ineffective. The Commission feels that these stations, who are not fully bound by the mileage separation, have no adverse affect to short-spaced stations. Furthermore, those short-spaced stations will be allowed to move, even beyond their current limitations, based on predicted interference, instead of the relative locations of the transmitter facility.

The Commission, in the past, has allowed adjacent, short-spaced educational FM to TV channel 6, to be co-located, and has shown that the potential for any interference is minimal, if at all. It is not clear why that I.F. short-spaced FM stations cannot co-locate or co-exist in proximity, to each other, if no interference occurs. The grandfathered short-spaced stations are already allowed to operate outside standard short-spacing mileage separation. It appears that these short-spaced stations are currently existing, with minimal or little interference to each other. Why can't I.F. short spaced, non-grandfathered stations, also be allowed to operate, with little or no interference? It appears that the grandfathered stations are receiving preferential treatment. Non-grandfathered stations, who do not enjoy such immunity, suffer, even though it would have little to no effect to the other stations.

The Commission currently has a proposed rule making, MM docket # 96-62, regarding blanketing interference. Today's radios are better than they were nearly 15 years ago, when the F.C.C. last tested radio receivers. Again, if minimal to no interference, with educational FM to TV channel 6 short-spacing has been proven, and grandfathered short-spaced stations are going to be given the opportunity to further enhance their coverage, it must be in the public interest, convenience and necessity to further extend the NPRM to allow waivers to I.F. short-spaced stations, revocable if an actual interference problem cannot be resolved.



Ralph Brancato

July 22, 1996

Director of Engineering - WPNT, Inc.

Certified Broadcast Engineer - The Society of Broadcast Engineers